

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 8, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment and following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 6-10 and 12-20 are pending in this application. Claims 6-10 and 14-19 stand rejected. Claims 11- 13 and 20 are objected to as depending on a rejected claim. Claim 11 has been canceled.

The rejection of Claims 6-10 and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bergmann et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,196,062) is respectfully traversed.

Bergmann et al. describe an apparatus 1 used to hold bearing shell blanks 2 adjacent to one another during a coating process in a vacuum chamber. Apparatus 1 is hexagonal shaped such that six work piece holding pairs 3 may be coupled thereto. Each holding pair 3 includes a work piece holding part 5 and a cooling body part 6. Holding part 5 is generally U-shaped and includes a concave semi-cylindrical surface 32 that is contoured to substantially match a desired contour of the shell blanks 2. During the coating process shell blanks 2 are held against bearing surface 32 by the close-latchable shoulders 31a and 31b.

With respect to Claims 6-10, Claim 11 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claim 11 has been canceled and independent Claim 6 has been amended to include all of the limitations of Claim 11. Accordingly Claim 6 is submitted to be patentable over Bergmann et al.

Claims 7-10 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 6. When recitations of Claims 7-10 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 6, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 7-10 likewise are patentable over Bergmann et al.

Claim 14 recites an apparatus for clamping locating shroud segments during a spraying operation, wherein the apparatus comprises "a base...a pair of arms comprising opposite first and second ends...a clamping element coupled to each said arm second end, said clamping element configured to clamp the shroud segments to said base such that at least one edge of each shroud segment is positioned against and masked by said clamping element...a locating member comprising a yoke comprising a slotted opening defined therein, said opening sized to receive at least a portion of the shroud segment therein."

Bergmann et al. do not describe nor suggest an apparatus for clamping locating shroud segments as is recited in Claim 14. Specifically, Bergmann et al. do not describe nor suggest as apparatus that includes a locating member including a yoke that includes a slotted opening defined therein that is sized to receive at least a portion of the shroud segment therein. Rather, in contrast to the present invention Bergmann et al. describe an apparatus wherein bearing blanks are pressed against a contoured bearing surface. Accordingly, Claim 14 is submitted to be patentable over Bergmann et al.

Claims 15-19 depend from independent Claim 14. When the recitations of Claims 15-19 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 14, Applicants submit that Claims 15-19 are likewise patentable over Bergmann et al.


For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102(b) rejection of Claims 6-10 and 14-19 be withdrawn.

Claims 11-13 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claim 11 has been canceled and independent Claim 6 has been amended to include all of the recitations of Claim 11. Accordingly, Claim 6 is submitted to be in condition for allowance. Claims 12 and 13 depend from Claim 6. When the recitations of Claims 12 and 13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 6, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 12 and 13 likewise are in condition for allowance.

Claim 20 was indicated as also being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claim 20 depends from independent Claim 14 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claim 20 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 14, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 20 likewise is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert B. Reeser III
Registration No. 45,548
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070